GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1586
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2001
NATIONAL HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT
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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether, in spite of 50 years of Independence, the country has not been able to bring out a national human development report to improve the status of human development;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Planning Commission undertook the task of preparing the national human development report for India last year;

(d) if so, whether this report has been prepared;

(e) if so, the details thereof and, if not, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether the Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission has instructed theState Government to prepare individual national human resource development report and also for whole country; and

(g) if so, the steps taken or being taken by State Governments in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF PLANNING, STATISTICS & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

(a) & (b): In the fifty years since independence, India has had nine five year plans and in each of these five year plans, there has been a focus and emphasis on various aspects of improvement in human development, including poverty alleviation, development of social services, such as education, health, women and child development, nutrition, civil amenities and development of deprived and backward sections of the population. Various programmes/schemes covering these issues have been initiated from time to time. However, a National Human Development Report (NHDR) alongthe lines on which the concept of human development has evolved in the 1990s, primarily under the aegis of UNDP, has not yet been brought out bythe Central Government. There have been initiatives from among some of the State Governments and by some research institutions that have resulted in reports on some aspects of human development in India.

(c) to (e): The Planning Commission has undertaken the task of preparingthe National Human Development Report for India with the objective of evolving appropriate human development indices for the country. The work on the Report started last year and the Draft Report is in the final stages of completion. After the Report is discussed with experts in a Seminar / Workshop shortly, it would be submitted to the Government.

(f): The Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission has not instructed theState Governments to prepare their State Human Development Reports. ThePlanning Commission is, however, encouraging the States to take up preparation of such Reports and, in this regard, providing some financial support as well.

(g): Two States, namely, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka havealready prepared their State Human Development Reports without seeking financial assistance from the Planning Commission. Twelve States, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, HimachalPradesh, Tamil Nadu, Sikkim, Rajasthan, Orissa, Haryana and Goa are atvarious stages of preparing their Reports. They have received additional Central Assistance during the period 1998-2001 for preparing their respective Reports. Maharashtra, Jammu and Kashmir and Meghalaya haveinitiated work on their Reports and have sought financial assistance from Planning Commission.